

C99-17



## FACULTY OF MUSIC

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*presents*

*a concert of the Thursday Noon Series*

# *! I Profundi !*

Paul Meyer - *Violin*

Carol Fujino - *Violin*

Daniel Blackman - *Viola*

Simon Fryer - *Cello*

Thursday, February 11, 1999

12:10 p.m.

Walter Hall

Free Admission

98 UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO 99

# programme

**Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976) : Three Divertimenti**

*March*

*Waltz*

*Burlesque*

**Django Bates (b. 1960) : 'Pond Life'**

*Peering In*

*Teeming*

*Deep End*

*Humming Whole*

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**R. Murray Schafer : String Quartet No.5 (Rosalind)**

# programme notes

**Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976) : Three Divertimenti**

The reworking of an earlier (1933) quartet from Britten's student days at the Royal College of Music then entitled *Alla Quartetto Serioso 'Go play, boy, play'*. These lively and effectful character pieces were first conceived as depictions of friends from Britten's days as a Public Schoolboy. The *Divertimenti* received the first performance in their present form in London in 1936 at the very beginning of Britten's career during his period of gainful employment with the Post Office Film Unit (!) writing music for such epics as *'The King's Story'*, *'Men Behind the Meters'*, *'Night Train'* and *'The Savings Bank'*.

**Django Bates (b. 1960) : 'Pond Life'**

Born in Kent, Django Bates grew up in the milieu of jazz and world music. A brief period as a composition student at the Royal College of Music (where incidentally Britten first began *'Go play, boy, play'*) quickly led him back to jazz and study as a self-taught musician and composer. One of the founders of Loose Tubes - Britain's most exciting and inspirational 80's Big Band and the first jazz orchestra to perform at the BBC Proms, Django introduced the world to a whole new generation of creative musicians. Django appears regularly around the world with his current large-scale performing group Delightful Precipice and his small ensemble Human Chain.

Django says: "Pond-Life is well known as a derogatory term used cheekily to describe the string section of an orchestra. As any Goldfish or Newt will tell you 'a pond is a universe in itself and is not to be used as the butt of musical jokes'. For this reason I thought it would be nice to find a more positive connection between stringed instruments and pond-life ... "

1. *Peering In*: a curious statement of themes ... leads into

2. *Teeming*: very dense, getting denser. (Ever cleaned a pond out?)

3. *Deep End*.

4. *Humming Whole*: it's a bright day; insects buzz above the pond maniacally cramming seventy years of life into twenty-three hours; Jesus Beetles skim the surface; various critters do whatever they do below; and Goldfish in blissful ignorance ponder their position as the largest creatures in the universe!

Pond Life appears on the album '*Good Evening... Here is the News*' performed by the Smith Quartet.

### **R. Murray Schafer : String Quartet No.5 (Rosalind)**

Murray Schafer's fifth string quartet appears more lyrical with a lighter tone and spirit than his other quartets as a direct result of its commissioning for the birthday celebration of Rosalind Witkin. Close ties to the *Patria* cycle (Schafer's massive cycle of theatre works) stem from the two main themes being associated with Ariadne and Wolf: the principal characters of the myths in the cycle. The Ariadne theme which appears in many guises throughout *Patria* and the quartet has a gently undulating character; the Wolf theme is based on the actual cry of a timber wolf. The Quartet is in one continuous movement broken down into many sections of contrasting mood and texture; the music ends as it began in a sensation of quiet lyricism and contemplation.

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### *!I Profundi!*

a musical entity which gathers appropriate musicians together for the performance of both familiar and unfamiliar works of chamber music. A program is chosen because the works need to be played and because they complement each other. The musicians are also mutually complementary and come together to bring the music to life.

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# about the artists

An avid chamber musician **Paul Meyer** has been a member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra since 1979 and has participated in many chamber groups including the Gal Ensemble, Amici, Mooredale Chamber Series, TSO's Evening Overtures and Five Small Concerts. Paul has much experience with music for dance both as composer and performer including collaboration with the ensemble Selene in Japan and with Pascal Desrosiers in Toronto. At home with both baroque and modern violin Paul can be heard on CD with the Bach Consort, is on faculty at the University of Toronto and in his spare time directs a great deal of effort into ensuring the psychological well-being of his gerbil *Nezucon*.

**Carol Lynn Fujino** was born in Burlington, Ontario where she began learning to play the violin at age three with her father, Mark Fujino. Between summers playing with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Carol completed her Bachelor of Music in Performance at the University of Toronto where she received the coveted Eaton Scholarship. Since graduating she has performed in many of Toronto's professional orchestras including those of the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada and the Esprit Orchestra. One of the newer members of the TSO's first violin section, Carol loves to spend her off-hours involved in various chamber music ensembles most particularly as the violist of the "Modern Quartet". As a child Carol always hankered after a gerbil but had to make do with a succession of hamsters.

**Daniel Blackman** joined the viola section of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 1988 after playing in the Vancouver Symphony and CBC Vancouver Orchestras. Significant experience with chamber music has included founding membership of the Vetta String Quartet and appearances across Canada for Masterpiece Music in Vancouver, the Bach Society in Winnipeg, Guelph Spring Festival, Parry Sound-Festival of the Sound and the Five Small Concerts in Toronto. Daniel is an active viola teacher and as well as being a member of the faculties of both the University of Toronto and Inter-Provincial Music Camp he coaches the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. Dan finds that memories of his childhood on the prairies of Saskatchewan give him a particular empathy for small desert creatures (like the gerbil).

Cellist **Simon Fryer** was born and bred in the North of England. Study and a brief period freelancing in the UK followed by a character building sojourn in South Africa led to emigration to Canada in 1987 and a position with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 1989. As a member of several ensembles he continues to be very active in the chamber music and New Music fields in Toronto and can regularly be heard in solo recital and on the CBC. A faculty member of both the University of Toronto and Royal Conservatory of Music as well as the International School for the Musical Arts Simon's activities as an MG owner unfortunately preclude any involvement with gerbils.